

ELLIOTT SPRINGS IS DECORATED BY KING

His Remarkable Daring and Efficient Flying Wins Recognition.

DOWNS MANY HUN PLANES

Officially Credited With Fifteen But He Shot Down at Least Ten More of the Enemy Not Counted.

In the issue of the Independent and Harper's Weekly for December 7 there is a narrative that should be of interest to all South Carolinians. In an article "Britannia Rules the Air," Laurence Driggs tells of the difficulties that England overcame before her aviators became masters of the German fliers, and in this article he calls by name a few of Britain's most celebrated birdmen among them being "Elliott Springs of South Carolina."

Mr. Driggs, himself an aviator states that when the war commenced England stood third position in the air. But things have taken a change. He shows that one reason why Great Britain's rapid progress in the air has not become generally known is because Englishmen are so reticent about their own sportsmanship. For instance:

"When Guynemer of France shot down four enemy aeroplanes on May 25, 1917, at that time a world record, all America studied his youthful features with interest and affection. When Von Riekhofen was killed in combat within the British lines every newspaper in our land published the photograph of the great fighter who had conquered eighty enemy aeroplanes in combat. But where were the British airmen and what were they doing all this time? When Bishop returned to Canada on leave in the fall of 1917 a reporter at the wharf learned that he had shot down forty-six Huns while in the British air service. And the British had never mentioned it. Most extraordinary national modesty, this!"

Mr. Driggs continues that he then began to collect records, and at that time the British undeniably stood third. "Knowing the reluctance of the Englishman to speak of his talents and conscious of the British scorn of advertising, I believe that the British 'score' was higher than as published." Now, I am making an amazing discovery. Raymond A. Collishaw, a Canadian whose name probably has never been mentioned in America, has brought down more aeroplanes in combat than Von Riekhofen claimed. "An Irishman named Edward Mannock has a total of seventy-one aeroplanes shot down and, though he is one of the best loved officers in the British service, his name and marvelous exploits have never penetrated the veil of official modesty.

"Col. William A. Bishop, having amassed seventy-two victories, the last five of which he added to his score the morning after he received orders to return to London, reluctantly came home to find that he had been given charge of organizing the all-Canadian flying units."

Mr. Driggs then comments upon the exploits of other British aviators and gives their scores: McLaren and McElroy, Canadians, with 49 and 48, respectively; Robert a Lytle, New Zealander, 47; Albert Ball, Englishman, and a "V. C." man, 43 himself killed on May 9, 1918; Wollett, and Pullard, Englishmen, 43 each; "Taffy" Jones, Welshman, 40; Capt. Proctor of Canada and Major Dallas, New Zealanders, each with 40; Capt. Claxton, Canadian, 37; Capt. McCull, Canadian, 24; Major Quigley, Englishman, and Major Carter and Capt. McKeever, Canadians, 31 each; Capt. Howell, Capt. Frew, Major Andrews and Capt. Slater, each with 20 and 19 other British pilots with more than 20 each.

"Elliott Springs of South Carolina," he writes, "who was elected by Bishop with two other Americans to form members of his new squadron last spring, now has a squadron of his own and on August 1 last had destroyed his fifteenth Hun, Reed Landa, son of Judge Kenesaw M. Landis of Chicago, his shot down fifteen German aeroplanes since his en-

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THE FARM LOAN BOARD MAKES ANNUAL REPORT

Asks For Greater Lending Power For Land Banks and Right to Write Insurance.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Increase in the lending power of the federal land banks and the grant of authority for them to write fire insurance on farm property were advocated by the farm loan board in its annual report submitted to congress. Modification of the federal farm loan act so as to make the minimum loan \$500 instead of \$100, and maximum loans \$25,000 instead of \$10,000 also was urged.

The report was described as covering "the first year of operation" of the farm loan system, the first year of the board being spent in organization.

"The year was one of very evident progress," declared the report, which contained a table showing that farm loan associations increased from 1,839 to 3,493 during the year; that the capital of the 12 federal land banks increased from \$10,488,230 to \$16,250,285; that loans in force increased from \$29,516,304 to \$149,004,339; that joint stock land banks increased from four to nine; and their loans now amount to \$7,380,734; and that interest rates of the land banks was five or five and one-half per cent and that of stock land banks was six per cent.

Interesting information as to the application by borrowers of loans from the land banks was given in a detailed statement dealing with about one-third of all the loans closed by the banks. This statement showed that eight per cent of the proceeds of the loans were used to buy land; 10 per cent for buildings and improvements; 60 per cent to pay off existing mortgages; 10 per cent for payment of other debts; five per cent for purchase of bank stock; four per cent for purchase of live stock, and three per cent for implements and equipment.

"The loaning of over \$150,000,000 has been of distinct and direct benefit to more than 64,000 borrowers," declared the report, "and has been of indirect benefit to every applicant for a farm loan through private agencies.

"A distinct reduction, not only of the rate of interest on such loans, but also in the accompanying charges was manifest immediately after the passage of the act.

"While the loans made by federal land banks in the last year probably represent only about one-eighth of the total loans made by all agencies, they are far greater than any other single agency."

Despite the large production and high prices, net returns of agriculture in the 1918 crop year "was much less than is popularly supposed," declared the report which explained that big profits were eliminated by the scarcity of farm labor, its high cost, as also that of fertilizers, implements and machinery.

6,000 OFFICERS AND MEN ARE LANDED AT NEWPORT NEWS

Newport News, Jan. 2.—Approximately 6,000 officers and men of the American expeditionary forces in France, more than half of whom are wounded or sick, were landed here from the army transport Aeolus and the Rijndam. The Aeolus brought 2,770 sick and wounded enlisted men, 70 sick and wounded officers and 36 casual officers. The Rijndam brought 1,100 wounded and sick officers and men, two casual companies, 32d brigade headquarters coast artillery corps, 13th and 19th anti-aircraft section, 114th ammunition train and Brig. Gen. Charles Zimmerman, formerly of the Ohio national guard, and his staff. General Zimmerman is one of the few national guard officers who retained high rank after their organizations were absorbed by the regular army.

SOUTH CAROLINA PUTS BAN ON THE LABOR SOLICITORS

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 2.—John Lee Davis, federal director of the United States bureau for South Carolina has emphatically prohibited contractors and holders of other states soliciting labor in this state. Firms in North Carolina, Florida and Virginia with South Carolina labor, but the director will not allow them to solicit. He said that the labor in South Carolina already is short, and to permit other states filling their wants from South Carolina would greatly embarrass the situation.

WILSON'S SPEECH REPLY TO PREMIER

Regarded in Paris as Direct Rejoinder to That of Clemenceau.

"THE BALANCE OF POWER"

Statesmen Are Far Apart on This Question and the Two Speeches Are Contrasted as Unusual.

Paris, Jan. 2.—The declaration made by President Wilson in his speech at Manchester Monday against balance of power of the nations is regarded in high American quarters here as a direct rejoinder to the speech of Premier Clemenceau in the chamber of deputies in which he declared his support of "the balance of power" idea and his purpose to make it his guiding thought in the peace negotiations.

Whether it was intended to be so, it is not known, but the President's speech, coming within 24 hours after that of the premier, has led to a contrast between the two declarations as sharply defining two opposing viewpoints on the subject of balance of power among the nations.

The textual copy of the premier's speech on Sunday night is now available and gives the following reference on this subject:

"There is an old system which appears condemned today and to which I do not fear to say that I remain faithful at this moment. Countries have organized the defense of their frontiers with the necessary elements and the balance of power."

Great disorder broke out in the chamber at this point and Pierre Priesen, a socialist deputy, exclaimed:

"This is the system which has gone into bankruptcy."

Premier Clemenceau continued, saying:

"This system appears to be condemned by some very high authorities. Nevertheless, I will remark that if such a balance had preceded the war—that if America, England, France, and Italy had got together in declaring that whoever attacked one of them must expect to see the three others take up the common defense—"

The premier was interrupted here by applause and disorder in the chamber, but later resumed:

"There is in this system of alliance which I do not renounce, I say it most distinctly, my guiding thought at the conference, if your body permits me to go there, and I believe that nothing should separate after the war the four great powers that the war has united in this enterprise I will make all sacrifices."

The statement of the French premier is looked upon as foreign to the statement made a few hours later at Manchester by President Wilson when the President said:

"If the future had nothing for us but a new attempt to keep the world at a right poise by a balance of power, the United States would take no interest, because she would join no combination of power which is not a combination of all of us."

270 SAILORS DROWNED WHEN YACHT IS SUNK

Yolare Struck "Beast of Helm" Off Stormy Scotland—Had 300 Sailors on Board.

London, Jan. 2.—Two hundred and seventy sailors were drowned yesterday as the result of the loss of the British steam yacht Yolare off Stormy, Scotland.

The yacht had 300 sailors on board. They were on New Year holiday leave.

The vessel struck on the dangerous rocks known as the "Beast of Helm," near Stormy harbor and only about 39 of them were saved. Many of these were terribly injured in their efforts to reach the shore.

All the officers and crew of the Yolare were lost.

The Yolare was a vessel of 242 tons. She was built in 1902.

TO PUSH THE WORK OF NIGHT SCHOOLS

Great Mass Meeting to Be Held in Second Baptist Church Sunday Afternoon.

ONE SCHOOL DOING WELL

But the Leaders in the Work Wish to Establish at Least Five Others in Different Parts of County.

(By JOS. K. CONNORS.)

At three o'clock next Sunday afternoon in the Baptist church of the mill village there will be held an enthusiastic religious-educational meeting in the interest of the night school work in Lancaster county with special reference, however, to the night school already being successfully operated three nights of each week in the mill school.

It is the purpose of the night school illiteracy commission in the county to organize in different sections of the county as soon as practicable at least five community night schools for adult illiterates, but at present the school in the mill village is the only one which has been formally organized and set on foot. This school has been running two weeks very successfully and with fine progress. It is thought, on the part of the men, women and children who of necessity work in the mill during the day and cannot attend the day school, but it is believed that even greater interest than is at present manifested by the mill people generally should be taken in this educational night work. Those men and women of the community who really stand in most need of the educational advantages offered by the school have not yet presented themselves for enrollment.

The meeting Sunday afternoon will be the means of presenting to the large audience the most attractive and advantageous educational features of the night schools proposed to be operated from now on. It is thought, several months of each year in every county of South Carolina. As an unusually interesting and instructive program for the meeting Sunday afternoon has been arranged it is thought that a great number of interested folk not only from the mill village but from the town as well will be present to hear the speaker and to take part in the singing and other exercises of the hour.

The meeting will be presided over by Mrs. R. R. Riddle, night school chairman for Lancaster county, who, during the course of the meeting will take occasion to explain some of the features of the work of night schools not so well understood just now by the people generally, and will give some impressions of the work as gained by her from actual experience with it in the class room. Miss Bennie May Culp, another successful night school teacher, will address the meeting briefly along the same lines, and Col. and Mrs. Leroy Springs, and Mayor Stewart, and possibly other well known speakers and educators will address the meeting at length upon different interesting phases of night school endeavor in Lancaster county and in South Carolina.

All persons interested in the educational and religious progress and prosperity of Lancaster are very cordially invited to attend this meeting Sunday afternoon in the mill village.

WHAT PRESIDENT THINKS OF DECLARATION IS NOT KNOWN

Paris, Jan. 2.—Premier Clemenceau's declaration in the chamber favoring the principles of a balance of power has not been referred to by President Wilson. Indications are totally lacking as to how the President regards the premier's views on this subject.

President Wilson on his arrival here authorized the following:

"Upon leaving England President and Mrs. Wilson expressed their very great pleasure at the delightful cordiality of their welcome. The President expressed great satisfaction upon finding how close the purpose and feeling of the people of Great Britain corresponds with the purpose and feeling of the people of the United States."

Brazilian Fleet to Visit England

Rio Janeiro, Brazil, Jan. 2.—By the invitation of the British government, the Brazilian fleet now in European waters will visit Great Britain.

SIX VESSELS RETURNING WITH 12,000 SOLDIERS

Units of 87th Division, Casual Companies and Infantry Battalions on Board.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Departure from France of six additional transport ships, carrying approximately 12,000 homecoming soldiers, was announced by the war department. The first of the ships, the Agamemnon, which sailed December 28, should reach New York January 5, and the last of them, the Eastern Queen, carrying only a few casual officers, is due at Baltimore January 14.

The transport Finland, which sailed December 29 and is due at Newport News January 19, bring Brigadier General Martin, of the 87th division, and the second battalion of the 345th infantry and the headquarters of the 173rd infantry brigade, of the same division, all en route for Camp Dix, N. J. The transport Madawaska, which sailed December 28, and is due at Newport News January 8, carries these additional units of the 87th division also en route for Camp Dix. Casual companies 113, 114, 115, 401, 408 and 409 and the headquarters of the 174th infantry brigade.

The Madawaska also carries 1-158 sick and wounded officers and men, while the Finland 849 sick and wounded officers and men and these additional units. Casual companies numbers 116, 117, 118, 120, 495, 496, 410 and 411 and chemical warfare service casual company number two.

The Agamemnon carries the 312th trench mortar battery, companies A, B, C, D, I, K, and L of the 35th infantry, third battalion headquarters, machine gun company and 330 sick and wounded.

The Sanata Marta left December 27 and is due at New York January 8, and the Louisville left December 28 and should reach New York January 6.

The Louisville has on board casual companies number 1,008, 1,009, 1,068, 1,069, 1,070 and 1,071, a number of casual officers and 73 sick and wounded.

The Santa Marta is bringing 112 casual officers and one officer and 12 men of the first field artillery.

DR. MOTT DENIES THAT Y. M. C. A. PROFITEERED

Wrathful Over Charges of Injustice on Soldiers and Sailors Overseas.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 30.—Stirred by what he considers utterly unfounded criticism of the Y. M. C. A. which has been going on since the outbreak of the war, Dr. John B. Mott, the chief executive of the national war work council of the army and navy Y. M. C. A., in a signed statement, absolutely denies the charge of profiteering and things of like nature in the conduct of the work of the Y. M. C. A. in Europe.

"The time has come," said Dr. Mott, "when patience under fire apparently has ceased to be a virtue and the ethics of the Y. M. C. A. of needs in the face of unfair and unkind criticism has been imposed upon and is being used to the hurt of the organization. We are determined that from this time forward those who make charges against the Y. M. C. A. must be prepared to prove same or else have their charges branded for what they are worth by those who are in a position to speak authoritatively on the subject. For some time we have all been hearing a slight rumble of criticism against the Y. M. C. A. but the officials of the organization have accepted the same as a natural consequence of a big work done under great pressure and many handicaps. We now feel, however, that the time has come when we must definitely take notice of and investigate every phase of the situation and put our friends in position to properly brand the attacks on the Y. M. C. A. We also want their making charges held accountable for their assertions."

INCREASE OF \$56,540,527 IN S. C. PROPERTY VALUES

Columbia, S. C., Jan. 2.—The taxable property of South Carolina increased \$56,540,527 during 1918, as compared with 1917, according to the figures supplied by the office of the comptroller general for the fiscal year. The total assessed valuation for 1918 was \$374,178,499, while that of 1917 was \$317,637,972 and of 1916 was \$241,370,700. There were substantial increases in every county in the state except Florence and Richland, where decreases occurred.

Albionville, S. C., 1918, is assessed with value of \$1,708,631, with 1917 being \$1,600,000 with \$1,547,600 and 1916 being \$1,239,810. McCormick county leads the list with a total assessed valuation of \$2,440,000.

FARMERS TO SECURE NITRATE AT COST

Government Has Made Arrangements For Distribution Here.

PRICE IS \$81.00 PER TON

And the Consumer Will Pay Freight—No Money Will Be Required With the Application.

Notice has been given to R. W. Graeber, agricultural agent for Lancaster county, that the United States department of agriculture will sell at cost a supply of nitrate of soda to farmers in Lancaster county.

The nitrate will be sold under the authority of the food control act and subsequent legislation relating thereto. The price will be \$81.00 a ton, free on board cars at loading point or port. Farmers are to pay in addition freight to their shipping points.

Applications for a part of the nitrate bought by the government will be received only from actual farmers or owners of holders of farms for use on their land, and may be made through County Agent R. W. Graeber or through any member of a local committee consisting of S. E. Baines, K. M. Yoder, Vernon Craig and C. E. Williams.

No money will be required with the application but upon notice from the authorized representative of the department of agriculture farmers who have signed applications must deposit with a local bank, association, or individual, designated by the secretary of agriculture to act as the farmers' agent for that purpose, money to cover the cost of the fertilizer except the freight charge. In practically every case the money will be paid to a county nitrate distributor designated by the department of agriculture. Nitrate will be shipped to distributors on sight draft with bill of lading attached. Distributors will pay drafts, take up the bills of lading, collect money from farmers and distribute nitrate to farmers. Arrangements have been made to secure a large quantity of nitrate and it is believed that all reasonable requirements can be met.

County Agent Graeber has issued the following circular to farmers:

Carrying out the instructions of the department of agriculture I have appointed the following men as a county committee to receive applications for nitrate of soda:

S. E. Baines, Pleasant Valley; K. M. Yoder, Van Wagon; Vernon Craig, Lottinor; Charles E. Williams, Heath Springs. A committee will also be appointed for Kershaw.

Mr. Baines will receive all applications from Lancaster county farmers en route to be shipped to Port Mill; Mr. Yoder will receive all applications en route to be shipped to Van Wagon or Mansfield; Mr. Craig will receive all applications for nitrate to be shipped to Lancaster; Mr. Williams will receive all applications for nitrate to be shipped to Heath Springs. The same thing will apply to the committeemen to be appointed at Kershaw.

All applications must be made on or before Saturday, January 25. All applications received by that date will receive the same consideration regardless of the order in which they are received. No applications will be accepted after January 25.